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FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Attorney Docket No.	Serial No.
151P11201US01	10/699,611


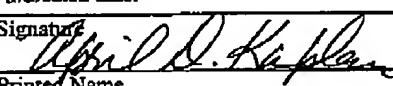
MS: Amendment
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TOTAL NO. OF PAGES: 3
Sent to Facsimile No.: 571-273-8300
Examiner Phone No.: 571-272-7230

In re Application of:	Marc J. Stepkowski	Examiner:	Christopher Koharski
Serial No.:	10/699,611	Art Unit:	3763
Confirmation No.:	9934		
Filed:	October 31, 2003		
For:	STYLET, APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR INSERTING A CATHETER INTO THE DURA OF A PATIENT BY STRETCHING THE CATHETER		
We are transmitting the following documents:			
Facsimile Transmittal Letter [1 page]			
Response to Restriction Requirement [2 pages]			

Please charge Deposit Account 50-0549 for any fees under 37 CFR §1.16 and §1.17 that may be required during the pendency of this application. This authorization includes the fee for any extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136(a) that may be necessary. To the extent any such extension should become necessary it is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Registration No. 28,052	Direct Dial 612-331-7405	
Date: October 13, 2006	William D. Bauer	
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PATENTIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Marc J. Stepkowski	Examiner:	Christopher Koharski
Serial No.:	10/699,611	Group Art Unit:	3763
Filed:	October 31, 2003	Confirmation No.:	9934
Docket No.:	151-P-11201US01		
Title:	STYLET, APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR INSERTING A CATHETER INTO THE DURA OF A PATIENT BY STRETCHING THE CATHETER		

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

MS: Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450


Dear Sir:

This election is in response to an Office Action containing an Election/Restriction Requirement mailed September 27, 2006, carrying a shortened statutory period of response of one month expiring October 27, 2006.

Restriction

Restriction has been requested from among the following Groups of claims:

- Group I: Claims 1-7, drawn to a method of inserting a catheter;
Group II: Claims 8-17, drawn to a device for catheter stretching and use with.

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Date October 13, 2006	April D. Kaplan

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USSN: 10/699,611
Group Art Unit: 3763
Docket No.: 151P11201US01

The asserted grounds for separating these groups are:

Inventions I and II are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another and materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be practiced by another and materially different process. ...In this case, the apparatus as claimed can be used to widen a surgical incision or for device fixation and removal as a surgical port.

While the claims of Group I are distinct and patentable over the claims of Groups II, and vice versa, it is respectfully submitted that the invention should, nevertheless, be examined together. Nevertheless, applicant elects the claims of Group 2, namely claims 8-17, with traverse. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Summary

Favorable examination and allowance are respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney if there are any questions regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,

MARC J. STEPKOWSKI ET AL.

Date: October 13, 2006

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